

REMARKS

Claims 1-31, 33-68, and 70-74 are pending in the application prior to entering this response.

The examiner objects to claims 1, 3-5, 12-17, 19, 27, 29-31, 38, 40-42, 45, 49-54, 56, 64, 66-68, and 74 for informalities.

The examiner rejects claims 20-29, 31, 33-37, 57-66, 68, and 70-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention.

The examiner allows claims 33-37.

The examiner indicates allowable claims 9, 12-14, 27, 46, 49-51, and 64 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner indicates allowable claims 31 and 68, if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejections we indicate above, and rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner indicates allowable claims 70-74 if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejections we indicate above.

The examiner rejects claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster et al. (US 6,650,619) in view of Osman et al. (US 6,791,971).

The examiner rejects claim 67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Osman further in view of Auerbach et al. (Signaling Backhaul Protocol, 25 February 1999, IETF Internet Draft) (Auerbach Signaling Backhaul Protocol).

The examiner rejects claims 1-6, 10-11, 17-22 and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Osman further in view of Auerbach et al. (Session Manager, 25 February 1999, IETF Internet Draft) (Auerbach Session Manager).

The examiner rejects claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Osman and Auerbach Session Manager further in view of Dalrymple et al. (US 6,826,272).

The examiner rejects claims 15-16, 23-26, 38-45, 47-48, 52-63, and 65-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of Osman and Auerbach Session Manager further in view of Auerbach Signaling Backhaul Protocol.

The applicants amend claims 1, 3-5, 8-9, 12-17, 19, 21-23, 25-29, 31, 37-38, 40-42, 45-46, 49-54, 56-57, 64-66, 68, and 74.

The applicants cancel claims 20, 30, 32, 67, and 69.

Claims 1-19, 21-29, 31, 33-66, 68, and 70-74 remain in the application after entering this response.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claim Objections

The examiner objects to several claims for informalities.

The applicants amend claims 1, 3-5, 12-13, 17, 19, 27, 29-30, 38, 40-42, 45, 49-50, 54, 56, 64, 66-67, and 74 as suggested by the examiner with few notable exceptions.

The examiner suggests amending claim 12 to replace “outbound signaling content” to —outbound the signal content—. The examiner suggests similar amendments to claims 31, 49, and 68. The examiner suggests amending claim 12 to replace “associated call signaling connections” to —associated with the call-signaling connections—. The examiner suggests similar amendments to claim 49. The applicants do not amend the claims as suggested by the examiner because doing so would, at best, render the claims grammatically incorrect (outbound signaling content, for example, as used in the claim is a noun; the word outbound is not used as a verb) and, at worse, unclear. The term “outbound signaling content” and “associated call signaling connections” as currently used in the corresponding claims is proper, clear, and not in error, particularly when read in the claims’ complete context.

The examiner suggests amending claim 12 to replace “transmitting each protocol data unit over its associated call-signaling connection” to —transmitting each protocol data unit of the protocol data units over its associated with the call-signaling connection—. The examiner suggests similar amendments to claims 27, 49, and 64. Adding “of the protocol data units” to “each protocol data unit” results in unnecessary wordiness. It is clear from the context that each protocol data unit refers to the plurality of data units recited in earlier lines. And applicants do not replace “associated call-signaling connection” with —over its associated with the call-signaling connection— because doing so would, at best, render the claims grammatically incorrect and, at worse, unclear.

Claim Rejections Under § 112

The examiner rejects several claims as lacking antecedent basis for various terms.

The applicants amend the claims to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. These amendments obviate the examiner’s rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants thank examiner Nguyen for allowing claims 33-37 and indicating allowable claims 9, 12-14, 27, 31, 46, 49-51, 64, 68, and 70-74.

The applicants amend claim 74 to obviate the examiner's § 112 rejections. Claim 74 and dependent claims 70-73 are in condition for the examiner's allowance.

The applicants rewrite claims 31 and 68 in independent form and to obviate the examiner's § 112 rejections. Claims 31 and 68 are in condition for the examiner's allowance.

The applicants rewrite claims 9, 12, 27, 46, 49, and 64 in independent form. Claims 9, 12, 27, 46, 49, and 64 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

The examiner rejects claims 1-8, 10-11, 15-26, 28-30, 38-45, 47-48, 52-63, and 65-66 as obvious primarily over Schuster by itself or in combination with other references.

The applicants attach a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to swear behind Shuster, effectively removing it as a prior art reference.

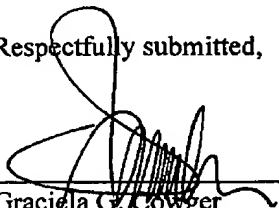
Claims 1-8, 10-11, 15-26, 28-30, 38-45, 47-48, 52-63, and 65-66 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all claims as amended is solicited. The examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.


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Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number (571) 273-8300, on March 14, 2006.


Beth Nichols

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

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